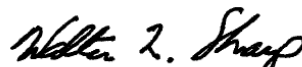




25 June 2009

### Independence Day - Holiday Safety

1. Two hundred and thirty-three years ago, distinguished gentlemen representing the original thirteen colonies of the United States signed the most important document in our Nation's history – the Declaration of Independence. We continue to celebrate this monumental occasion every 4th of July, and we are reminded of the very freedoms that Service members around the globe have given their lives to protect.
2. As we take time to enjoy the well-deserved time off, let us reaffirm our commitment to protecting our most valuable assets – our Service Members, civilian employees, and family members. All must be mindful of the increased risks of alcohol-related incidents, individual and/or group misconduct, and seasonal hazards which could lead to needless losses. Many of our personnel are new arrivals to Korea. We must do everything within our power to make their first holiday in Korea an enjoyable, successful experience.
3. Involved leaders make a tremendous difference in how people respond to the call for responsible behavior. First-line leaders must create a verbal contract with their subordinates to act responsibly by conducting *Under the Oak Tree Counseling*. Leaders must ensure that everyone exercises discipline and good personal decision making during off-duty activities. Ensure your personnel avoid off limits areas, political gatherings and demonstrations, and comply with the curfew. Look after one another, and use the "buddy system."
4. I am convinced that your personal involvement and the chain of command's concern for our Servicemembers, civilian employees, and family members will make a difference over this holiday weekend. Our combined involvement will continue to save lives and allow each member of USFK to celebrate our nation's birth responsibly.
5. We Go Together!

  
WALTER L. SHARP  
General, US Army  
Commander